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Paper No:20080408
Application No:10/576947
Filing Date: April 24,2006

1. Claims 8-16 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The limitations of an elevator group controller with upper and lower cars in the same shaft which move independently wherein zone/destination are provided and wherein a safe waiting/shunting/confinement prediction time means provides for car assignment based on an evaluation of the data is not taught or reasonably suggested by the cited art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Meyle et al., Jokela et al., Sakita '538,'414, Hikita et al '065,'849 and Chenais et al are cited to illustrate similar elevator group controllers for independent upper and lower cars in the same hoistway.

Art Unit: 2837

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 months from the date of this letter.

Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Any inquiry of a **general nature** should be directed to the **Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2800**.

Information regarding the STATUS of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either private PAIR or public PARI. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR ONLY. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Any questions on access to PAIR, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 2800 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 2800 via the PTO 2800 Fax Center. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 O.G. 30 (November 15, 1989). The Fax Center number is (571) 273-8300.

For assistance in **Patent procedure, fees or general Patent questions** calls should be directed to the **Inventors Assistance Center (IAC) whose telephone number is 800-PTO-9199 or 800-786-9199**. Assistance is also available on the Internet at www.uspto.gov.

For requesting **copies of Cited Art, Office Actions or the like, response to Status Letters, lost papers or files or General Problem solving**, calls should be directed to the **TC 2800 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is 571-272-2800 or by fax at 571-273-8300**.

Any inquiry concerning **this communication or earlier communications from the examiner** should be directed to **Jonathan Salata whose telephone number is (571) 272-2073**. The examiner does not have as detailed access as the previously listed numbers with regard to status or general problem solving. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lincoln Donovan, can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 37.

ajs

April 11, 2008

/Jonathan Salata/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2837

/Jonathan Salata/
JONATHAN SALATA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2837